

boundaries; second, exercise of communal rights with respect to resources or subsistence activities; third, retention of a native language or other customs; or fourth, that it is state-recognized.

Finally, my bill sets strict time limits for the Commission to act, thus eliminating delay. It requires the new Commission to publish petition in Federal Register within 30 days of receipt. It requires the Commission, within 60 days of receipt, to set a date for a preliminary hearing. It requires the Commission, within 30 days of the preliminary hearing, to decide whether to extend recognition or require a trial-type hearing. And it requires the Commission to hold the trial-type hearing within 180 days of the preliminary hearing and make a decision within 60 days after the hearing.

These are all important measures and I hope that my colleagues will support me in my endeavor to set right much of the injustices that the United States has visited upon the Indian tribes.

NOT A HEARTBREAK HOTEL

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, on March 6, the Christian Science Monitor printed a very perceptive and useful article on the Middle East peace process by Ralph Nurnberger, a fair-minded long-time expert in this area. For the benefit of my colleagues, I ask that it be reprinted in the RECORD at this point.

[From the Christian Science Monitor,
Thursday, March 6, 1997]

NOT A HEARTBREAK HOTEL

(By Ralph Nurnberger)

The day before he left for his official visit to the United States, Yasser Arafat presided over the groundbreaking ceremony for a Marriott Hotel to be built on the beachfront in Gaza.

This project says, symbolically, that the Middle East peace process might, finally, produce tangible benefits for the people in the area, especially through direct involvement of the private sector. The construction and later operation of this hotel will provide employment for hundreds of Palestinians. It will contain a modern commercial center to enable international visitors and Palestinians to conduct business as it is done elsewhere in the world. The project will include a self-contained telecommunications center for international calls, faxes, and e-mail as well as excess telephone capacity for the local market.

This project will be the first major American private sector involvement in Gaza. The total investment will be approximately six times more than all other American investments in Gaza—combined!

While diplomatic achievements are essential, the real test of the peace process is how it affects the daily lives of Israelis and Palestinians. If substantive and visible improvements do not result, no international agreements can succeed. For the majority of Israelis, the key element is security. Israelis must feel safe riding buses, shopping in malls, and sending their children to schools. If random acts of violence occur, they must be assured that the Palestinian Authority will work with Israeli officials to find and prosecute the terrorists.

PEACE DIVIDENDS: LOWER INCOMES

Although more Israelis have been killed through terror attacks since the Sept. 13,

1993, signing than in any comparable period, it appears that the Palestinians finally understand their responsibility to work with Israelis to enhance security concerns. The test for most Palestinians is whether the peace accords will result in an improved quality of life. Developing a thriving economy that provides new employment opportunities will not only minimize hatreds and tensions, but will also bring about the promise of a new life.

Economic divergence exacerbates political and religious tensions. Since the first Rabin-Arafat signing, Israeli per capita income has increased from \$13,800 to over \$15,000, while Palestinian incomes have dropped by a third to under \$1,200.

Delays and reallocations of internationally pledged contributions, the reluctance of foreign investors to establish projects in Gaza and the West Bank, border closures, the slow pace of diplomatic negotiations, and difficulties encountered in setting up a viable Palestinian economy have contributed to growing frustration. Public infrastructure and services, including education, health care, sanitation, water, waste water disposal, and electricity continue to be inadequate. Despite a minor building boom, a housing shortage remains.

While the Netanyahu government has eased some limits on Palestinians seeking employment in Israel, the numbers able to cross the borders are significantly below the 120,000 able to find daily work in Israel in 1992.

Rather than growing to absorb these workers, the Palestinian economy has declined over the past two years. Thus, workers have fewer opportunities to find employment within Palestinian areas. The unemployment rate in Gaza, always high, is now estimated at approximately 50 percent, with the rate in the West Bank estimated at 30 percent. Unemployment is highest among young, single men—the most likely recruits for terror-oriented groups.

BIG AID PLEDGES, LITTLE FOLLOW-THROUGH

The US hosted an international meeting on Oct. 1, 1993, at which \$2.4 billion in assistance to the West Bank and Gaza was pledged. Most of these funds have not been delivered or have been diverted from long-term projects to emergency programs and costs of running the Palestinian Authority.

The United States committed \$500 million, of which \$75 million annually for five years is managed by the Agency for International Development (AID). The other \$125 million was to come from the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) to assist American investors through a combination of loans, loan guarantees, and political risk insurance.

AID has assisted a number of worthwhile projects, including \$12 million for construction of six housing units with 192 apartments in Gaza called Al Karam Towers. AID is also helping to improve uses of scarce water resources and assisting private sector economic growth through technical assistance, training, loans to local firms, and establishment of industrial parks. But AID funds have been diverted from long-term projects to help in establishing Palestinian self-rule. For example, AID committed \$2 million to support local elections in the West Bank and Gaza, and to assist Palestinians in promoting more responsible and accountable governance.

AID has minimized help for the agricultural sector, the one area where Palestinians could immediately develop profitable exports, especially under a new Free Trade Agreement with the US. Allocating additional funds to farm exports would be cost efficient.

OPIC made a major effort to seek private sector projects to assist or insure. But most private investors have avoided Gaza, so OPIC funds committed to date have been modest.

Mr. Arafat would be wise to stress the solving of such economic problems as a prime way to reduce tensions, improve the quality of life, and enhance opportunities for peace. He should build on momentum from the hotel project and stress the need for private sector involvement in the Palestinian economy.

WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, March 14, 1997, the New Jersey Association of Women Business owners held A Salute to Women Leaders luncheon.

This chapter's membership has successfully encompassed the entire State of New Jersey. The statewide group of women business owners is 1,000 members strong, making it the largest chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners in the United States. The New Jersey chapter has become a strong economic and political force at both the State and national levels.

National statistics state that woman-owned businesses are the fastest growing segment of the U.S. economy. Currently, women own more than 6 million businesses, which is one-third of all U.S. companies.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues will join me in saluting women leaders as well as the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners. I want to congratulate the chapter on a successful event and wish the members many more years of growth and prosperity.

OSHA: THE TIME IS NOW

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to reform the Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA]. This legislation is exactly the same as H.R. 707, which I introduced during the 104th Congress. H.R. 707 had 19 cosponsors, including 2 full committee chairman and several subcommittee chairman.

Since 1970 OSHA has been tasked with the duty of maintaining safe and healthy workplaces. I intensely support them in this effort and I think you would be hard pressed to find a Member of Congress who didn't. However, OSHA's directive to carry out this task through mandatory standards enforced by surprise inspections and fines need to be rethought. My bill will move OSHA from a heavyhanded enforcement bureaucracy to a compliance based cooperative agency. By relieving OSHA from its "gotcha" mentality, I believe we can create even safer workplaces.

Every Member of Congress has heard about some of the OSHA's ridiculous regulations and tactics from their constituents. It's time to send